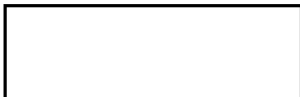


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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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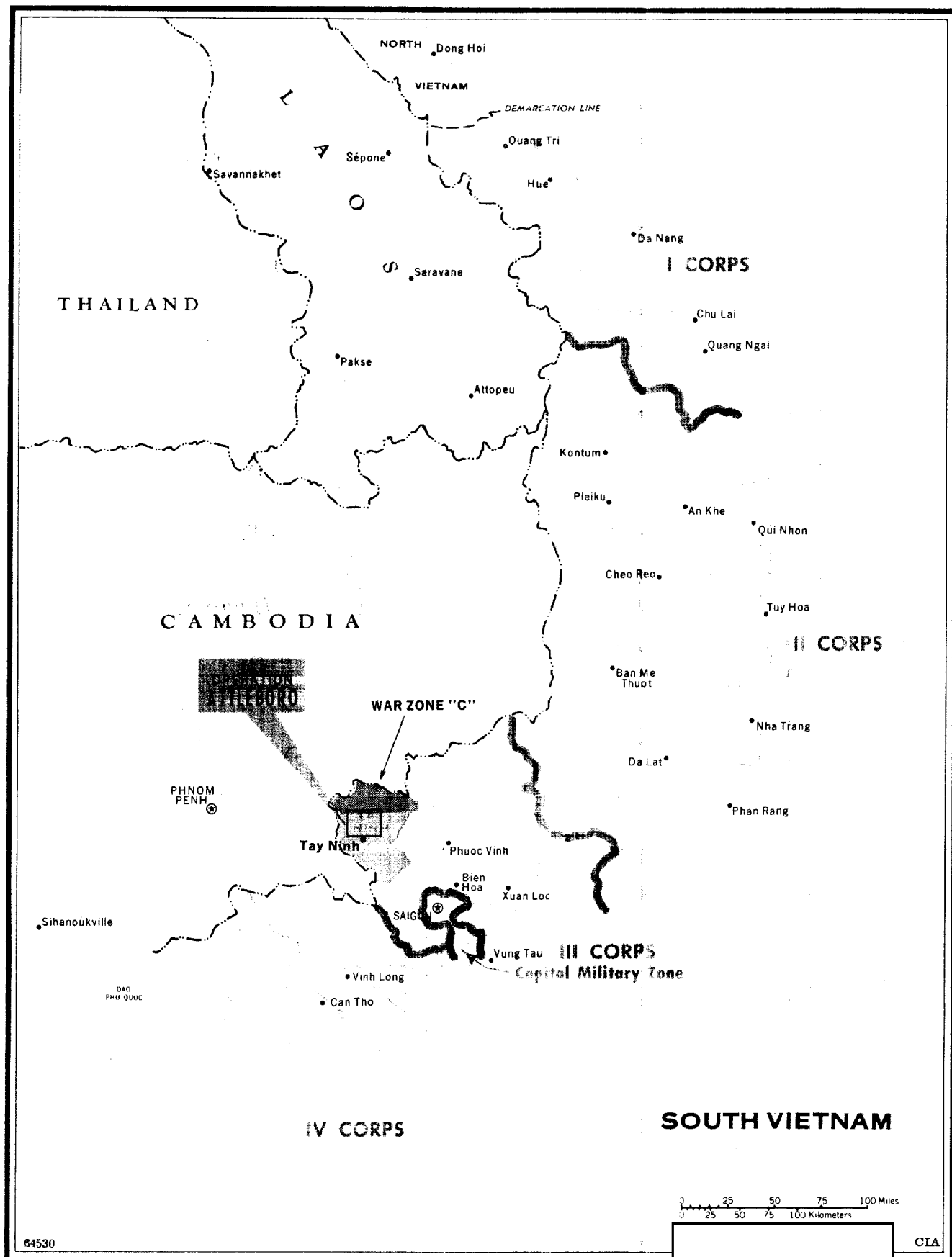
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*Vietnam: (Information as of 4:30 AM EST)

South Vietnamese Military Developments: Resistance to Operation ATTLEBORO northeast of Tay Ninh city dwindled yesterday to sporadic sniper fire.

US forces operating near Viet Cong War Zone "C" have seized four Communist base camps and large stores of materiel. To reach them, US troops passed through a complex of unoccupied bunkers which was strongly defended by the Communists until it was subjected to heavy artillery and tactical air bombardment--suggesting that the camps were important Viet Cong installations.

Revised casualty figures show 46 US killed and 199 wounded. Communist losses are counted as 433 killed and seven captured.

The breakoff of significant contact could mean that the enemy are regrouping and that their integrity as a fighting force remains unbroken. (Map)

Political Developments in South Vietnam: The People's Bloc in the Constituent Assembly continues to improve its position.

Bloc adherents are heavily represented in the membership and hold the chairmanships of all four permanent committees in the assembly, including the constitution drafting committee. Composed largely of Catholic, Dai Viet Party, and military delegates from northern and central Vietnam, the bloc reportedly plans to alter its formal leadership in order to attract other assembly delegates--particularly those who belong to the Democratic Bloc which also has strong Catholic representation from central Vietnam.

(continued)

This would further undercut the influence of the southern delegates, who have been unable to organize any numerically strong political alignments.

North Vietnamese Political Developments: Hanoi appears to be stepping up its propaganda support of Bertrand Russell's proposed "war crimes" trial of US leaders. A preliminary meeting of some of the organizers of the "tribunal" is scheduled to take place in London this month. According to a French press agency report from Hanoi, Ralph Schoenmann, Bertrand Russell's top aide arrived in Hanoi on 4 November.

Hanoi radio has given heavy play in the past few weeks to alleged civilian casualties caused by recent US bombing raids--particularly charging that there have been bombings of schools. DRV representatives abroad are also calling press conferences to release "documents compiled by the Hanoi Commission for Investigating US War Crimes in Vietnam." [REDACTED]

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Britain: British Foreign Office and defense officials told the US that, if substantial savings cannot be made in military spending in Germany, Britain might have to give up its military role east of Suez.

London's plan to cut its 1967-68 military budget has run into trouble with NATO members who object to the planned reduction of the Rhine army's logistics supply from 30 to ten days. To complicate matters, the savings target was based on the assumption that West Germany would offset much more of the foreign exchange costs than Bonn's current offer provides for.

Foreign Office and defense officials hope they can resist treasury pressures to eliminate the entire foreign exchange drain of the Army of the Rhine by cutting the number of combat troops. These officials warn that failure to achieve the planned savings would undermine their position and reopen the debate on Europe versus east of Suez. In that case official sentiment in London--reinforced by renewed interest in the Common Market--probably would favor a European role and, if necessary, withdrawal from east Asia.

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India: There are preliminary indications that India will face another food crisis in 1967.

Although production during the 1966-67 crop year will probably surpass by several million tons the low yield of 1965-66--caused by the nationwide drought of 1965--there will be a continuing need for large-scale imports of food grains. There has been a severe drought this fall in a densely populated area of north India. Moreover, one of the emergency sources of food grains last year is now gone; this was an estimated six or seven million tons of reserve stocks accumulated by dealers and farmers following the record harvest of 1964. In addition, during 1966, the population of India will have increased by an estimated 12 million.

An estimated 12-13 million tons of food grains will have been imported during 1966 to meet the crisis brought about by the drought of 1965. [REDACTED]

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Uruguay: Rumors of a possible coup are again circulating in Montevideo.

The US Embassy reports that talk of an "unconstitutional move" to unseat the government is being generated as a result of widespread and protracted labor unrest and the confusion surrounding the 27 November general elections.

Public uncertainty has been further heightened by the failure of the major parties to conclude election alliances and publish their lists of candidates. Top security officers, including some frequently alleged to be plotters, are reported to be impatient with the feuding politicians and wish to institute emergency measures to quell unrest.

The embassy considers that a coup before the elections is not likely, but warns that the situation is so unsettled that a spark could set off an explosion.

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